

REAL ESTATE BROKER FOR HALF-AND-HALF

W. H. Saunders Urges Retention of Principle at Fiscal Rate Inquiry.

(Continued from First Page.)

The inquiry committee, and approved by Commissioners Newman and Brownlow, is renouncing the principle of the half-and-half law, which was the author, Mr. Blackburn informed the committee that his views concerning the necessity for a change were accurately outlined in an interview in The Washington Times several months ago.

Outlines History.

Former Senator Blackburn began with a brief history of chaotic conditions existing in the District prior to the enactment of the organic act of 1870. Property values, he said, were not ascertainable because of the uncertainty of the amount of appropriations from Congress and "all sorts and forms of government here."

Mr. Blackburn said he did not regard the half-and-half law as perfect, but that it was approximately equitable. "I did not think," he said, "that the taxpayers here should contribute 50 per cent of the cost of the District government, and the other 50 per cent be paid by the Federal Government, and that the best thing that could be obtained was the half-and-half plan."

Consequently, I favored the adoption of the half-and-half payment plan. I looked at it from the standpoint of the friendly relations between the two Governments, and I have never ceased to entertain a friendly feeling for the people here.

"If that principle was fair in 1870 it certainly is not fair today. For thirty-six years there has been a shifting in the holdings of real estate in this city. The change has been all one way, and I think that the Government has ever parted with a foot of land. It has been acquiring real estate, and the result is that the half-and-half principle is no longer equitable, and this real estate as acquired has gone off of the District tax books."

Equilibrium Disturbed.

"That has tended to disturb the equilibrium upon which taxes are based. If the people here are paying more than their fair proportion of taxes in 1915 they are certainly paying more than a fair proportion now."

Mr. Blackburn cited the Plaza property and the Mall as representing large Government acquisitions of property removed from the taxation list.

"The status of 1870 no longer exists," continued former Senator Blackburn. "For that reason I believe the time has come to abolish the 50 per cent arrangement between the Federal Government and the District."

"There are other reasons: I do not believe the Federal Government should be paying the taxes on the property in the District. It is not fair to the people here. I do not think it comports with the dignity of a nation of 100,000,000 people to maintain a business partnership with the persons who pay taxes in the District."

"Some months ago an interview appeared in The Washington Times which succinctly stated my position on this entire question. My position is: I think the property owners here should pay taxes on their holdings. I do not think these taxes should be in any connection whatever with the maintenance and development of the Capital by the Federal Government."

Congress Power Absolute.

"Congress has absolute power here in the District. Its responsibility is not to be as limitless as its power and authority."

"I believe the partnership between the District and the United States ought to be dissolved. The law of 1870 has stood the test for more than a third of a century. It has lasted longer than I thought it would. It has worked better than I thought it would."

"It has never been the policy of the United States Government to go into partnership with any one. It does not even patronize private insurance companies to insure its buildings against fire."

"I think that Congress should fix a fair rate of taxation to be paid by the people residing within the District and this rate should be collected without the slightest regard to the fact that this is the Capital of the Nation. I believe the District should be able to pay its own expenses."

"I would have no connection between the amount of the appropriation and the amount of taxes raised here."

Might Be Parsimonious.

"It has been suggested in some quarters that Congress might be parsimonious in its treatment of the Capital. I have no sympathy with such suggestions. I speak in the light of the experience of one who has served more than a third of a century in the two houses of Congress. I do not believe there is a more responsible body of men in the Congress—composed of House members who are elected every two years and Senators elected every six years."

"To charge that these men would adopt a cheese-paring policy toward the Capital of the Nation is to impugn the patriotism and the honor of a million people. I have no sympathy with that sort of talk."

"Until this partnership between the District and the Federal Government is dissolved there is no way to escape the constantly recurring wrangles in the Senate and House over the half-and-half plan. These wrangles always occur when the District appropriation bills are up, and they will continue to occur as long as this unnatural partnership lasts."

Has No Regrets.

Former Senator Blackburn said he had no regrets nor apologies to offer as the author of the act of 1870. It had answered its purpose for thirty-six years, he said, and was the best thing that could be gotten for the District at the time.

"If the present plan of dividing expenses is to be maintained," he said, "and if the gentlemen on the committee cannot be persuaded to recommend a different plan, then I would be glad to see it maintained, but I think the people here are entitled to something better. The residents here ought to be required to pay fair taxes on their property—they ought not to be penalized for living here, nor should they receive unusual benefits because they live here. And, as I said, I would establish no connection whatever between the District taxes and the amounts appropriated from the Federal Treasury for the maintenance and development of the nation's Capital."

Senator Works asked if Mr. Blackburn believed public sentiment throughout the country is opposed to liberal appropriations for the Capital City. "I do not believe any such sentiment would be manifested in Congress were it not that some gentlemen think they can popularize themselves among their rural constituents by recommending a different plan," replied former Senator Blackburn, with vigor.

Congressman Gard asked if Mr. Blackburn would continue to exempt intangible property from taxation here. "I would not tax it if it paid taxes

elsewhere and intangible property pays taxes somewhere," said Mr. Blackburn.

"Would you fix the present tax rate on real property at a hundred per cent (three values)?" asked Congressman Cooper.

"Yes, I think that is as much as the Capital should pay here," answered Mr. Blackburn.

"And you would turn these taxes into the Treasury?"

"In other words, you would have the Government treat this as a National Capital and appropriate for it?"

"Absolutely, and you would have no semblance of a partnership between the Federal Government and the District of Columbia tax payers."

Mr. Gard wanted to know if the arrangement of 1870 was fair, what had brought about the necessity of a change. Mr. Blackburn replied that the largest factor had been the steady acquisition of land by the Federal Government, and that the Government must continue to add to its holdings. The committee would be surprised, he observed, if it knew how many Government bureaus in the District were exempt from taxation. Washington, he added, is becoming more and more a Federal city, and should be so recognized.

Higher Value Offset.

Senator Saulsbury asked if the trolley car and the automobile had not caused the development and increased value of lands that would be farm property in 1870, and Congressman Gard wanted to know if private property is not increased in value when the Government adds to its holdings.

"I am prepared to answer specifically," said Mr. Blackburn, "except to say that Government property is taken off the tax books as soon as it is acquired. It is not a question of extent whatever increased value there may accrue to private property. This private property continued to pay taxes at the increased rate and at the increased value."

"My general belief is that if the 50-50 percentage arrangement was proper thirty-six years ago the percentage is not proper today. The Federal Government and 50 per cent for the District Government—if you are to retain a 50-50 arrangement on the basis of 1870."

"But do not think there should be any fixed proportion or partnership. Whatever the taxes may be, they should be paid by the owners of the property. The Federal Government should not be paying the taxes on the property in the District."

Col. A. B. Worthington, of the joint citizens committee, read from Mr. Blackburn's speech of 1870 in which he told the House that a definite proportion of expenditures was necessary to link it, and this real estate as acquired has gone off of the District tax books.

"That is exactly how I feel about it. I am proud of the fact and thank you for the compliment," said Mr. Blackburn.

Congressman Cooper said that this nation would be one of 300,000,000 people in twenty years, and that the Federal Government should prepare for the extension of the Capital City.

Yes, the doctrine of preparedness applied to the situation right here, said Mr. Blackburn.

Senator Works asked if Mr. Blackburn thought the citizens of Washington wanted the half-and-half plan retained.

"I believe the partnership between the District and the United States ought to be dissolved. The law of 1870 has stood the test for more than a third of a century. It has lasted longer than I thought it would. It has worked better than I thought it would."

"It has never been the policy of the United States Government to go into partnership with any one. It does not even patronize private insurance companies to insure its buildings against fire."

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OFFICERS REELECTED BY W. C. T. U. BRANCH

Prize of \$20 in Gold Also Awarded to Miss Emma Kahl for Essay.

All the officers of the W. C. T. U. of the District were re-elected at the final day's session of the forty-first annual convention at St. Paul's Lutheran Church today.

The election which was held at noon and the presentation of a prize of \$20 in gold to Miss Emma Kahl for the best essay on scientific temperance instruction this afternoon were the principal features of the closing session.

The officers chosen today were: President, Mrs. Emma Sanford Shelton; vice president, Mrs. Theodore M. Moore; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. S. Henry; recording secretary, Mrs. Benjamin A. Lineback; assistant recording secretary, Mrs. Charles P. Grandfield; treasurer, Mrs. William A. Allen; Mrs. Teresa A. Williams, secretary of the Local Temperance Legion.

SIX INJURED WHEN MOTOR OVERTURNS

Mrs. William F. Work Taken to Hospital, Seriously Hurt. Car Plunges Down Bank.

Mrs. William F. Work, of 5505 Georgia avenue northwest, is suffering from serious injuries sustained when an automobile belonging to her husband, overtook a car and plunged down a steep bank.

The machine left the road and plunged down an embankment. At the foot of the declivity the car struck a tree and overturned. Mrs. Work, who was driving, was wedged against the steering wheel. Robert Work was badly injured. Miller sustained injuries to his legs, and his wife received a fracture of the left leg. Elliott was less seriously hurt.

Both Dr. Work and his wife were taken to Sibley Hospital. The others were taken to their homes.

Funeral of Dr. C. G. Stone Will Be Held Tomorrow

Funeral services for Dr. Charles G. Stone, who died yesterday at his apartment in Fontaine Court, aged sixty-nine years, will be held tomorrow at the apartment and St. Paul's Rock Creek Church, where the funeral will be held. The burial will take place in the Rock Creek Cemetery. Dr. Stone had been in ill health for several years and had not been actively engaged in practice.

He was twice married and is survived by his second wife and the children of his first marriage, Mrs. E. B. Cook, Miss Katherine H. Stone, G. Rapley Stone and Mrs. George H. Harris. The children of his first marriage are: Major John Hampton Stone, Medical Corps, U. S. A.; Robert L. Stone, Lieutenant, holding commissions in the U. S. A.; and Edward M. Cleary. He was a member of the American Medical Association and the Medical Society of Washington.

Three Ask Incorporation Of Undertaking Business

Charles S. Zurborst, Charles F. Donohue, and George F. Zurborst have applied for articles incorporating the George F. Zurborst Undertaking Business, and for Capital stock.

The capital stock is set at \$2,000, and applicants for incorporation on papers are named as the trustees for the first year.

Talks in Schools Here.

National Scout Commissioner Horgan continued his addresses to high and graded school pupils today. He spoke to 500 boys and girls at the Eastern High School this morning and later he addressed Blair and Morse schools.

Good Night Corns, Good-Boy "Gets-It"

New-Plan Corn Remedy That Never Fails. The Simple, Common-Sense Way.

"Gets-It" Ends Corn Pains. It's Sure and Safe, too!

You poor corn-limbers, with corn-wrinkles and heart-pains! Sit down tonight and put a few drops of "Gets-It" on the hot rid of corns the easy way, quick, simple, sure, new way. That's common sense. Try "Gets-It" also for warts and bunions. "Gets-It" hurt—the corn loosens, and comes right off—clean off.

"Gets-It" is sold at all druggists, 25c a bottle, or sent direct by E. Lawrence & Co., Chicago. Sold in Washington and recommended as the world's best corn remedy by Dr. O'Donnell's Drug Store, People's Drug Store, P. G. Affleck—Advt.

Our plant is equipped with all the modern shoe repairing machinery.

ONLY EX-EMPLOYED. Work called for and delivered. Phone M. 838.

KLEIN'S Rapid Shoe Repair Co. 736 14th St. N. W. Just Above N. Y. Avenue.

Times Want Ads Bring Results

LOCAL AND N. Y. FINANCIAL NEWS

ODD-LT TRANSFERS CONTINUE ON 'CHANGE

Bond Sales Are Light, While Capital Traction Stock Eased Off.

Odd-lot trading continues to prevail on the Washington Stock Exchange. At today's session the bond sales were light and the only full quotations of stock transfers were recorded in American Graphophone preferred, 50 shares being disposed of at 113 after an odd lot of 19 shares had sold at 112 1/2.

Capital Traction stock eased off. A total of 28 shares changed hands at 57 1/2, and the odd-lot price dropped 1/2 of a point to 57. The stock was offered as low as 57 1/2, but withdrawn when no buyers were found at that figure.

Other sales included \$1,500 worth of Washington Gas 5's at 105 1/2, \$1,500 worth of Riggs Realty (long) 5's at 109 1/2, one share of Washington Gas at 72 1/2, two shares of Merchants' Linotype at 181, and five shares of American Graphophone common at 106.

Local Bond Market.

GOVERNMENT BONDS. Bid. Ask. U. S. Reg. 2's..... 98 1/2 99 1/2 U. S. Reg. 3's..... 100 1/2 101 1/2 U. S. Coupon 5's..... 104 1/2 105 1/2 U. S. Reg. 5's..... 109 1/2 110 1/2 D. C. 5's..... 106 1/2 107 1/2

GAS BONDS. Geo. Gas Cert. Ind. 5's..... 102 1/2 103 1/2 Washington Gas 5's..... 105 1/2 106 1/2 Col. Gas & Elec. 5's..... 74 1/2 75 1/2

RAILROAD BONDS. Can. Traction R. R. 5's..... 101 1/2 102 1/2 Wash. & Annapolis R. R. 5's..... 100 1/2 101 1/2 Wash. R. R. Elec. & An. 5's..... 80 1/2 81 1/2 Wash. R. R. & Elec. 5's..... 80 1/2 81 1/2

MISCELLANEOUS BONDS. Potomac Elec. Co. 5's..... 105 1/2 106 1/2 Amer. Tel. & Tel. 5's..... 104 1/2 105 1/2 Wash. Market 5's..... 95 1/2 96 1/2 Wash. Reg. 5's..... 95 1/2 96 1/2 N. W. Steamboat 5's..... 96 1/2 97 1/2 Riggs Realty (long) 5's..... 109 1/2 110 1/2 Riggs Realty (short) 5's..... 109 1/2 110 1/2

PUBLIC UTILITY STOCKS. Capital Traction..... 57 1/2 58 1/2 Wash. R. R. & Elec. com..... 81 1/2 82 1/2 Wash. R. R. & Elec. pfd..... 81 1/2 82 1/2 Wash. R. R. & Elec. 5's..... 80 1/2 81 1/2 Wash. R. R. & Elec. 5's..... 80 1/2 81 1/2

TYPE MACHINE STOCKS. Merchants' Linotype..... 181 1/2 182 1/2 Lanston Monotype..... 74 1/2 75 1/2

MINING STOCKS. Greene-Carson..... 25 1/2 26 1/2 National Bank..... 150 1/2 151 1/2 Capital National Bank..... 215 1/2 216 1/2 Columbia Nat. Bank..... 193 1/2 194 1/2 Commercial Nat. Bank..... 123 1/2 124 1/2 Far & Mech. Nat. Bank..... 248 1/2 249 1/2 Federal Nat. Bank..... 150 1/2 151 1/2 Lincoln Nat. Bank..... 150 1/2 151 1/2 Metropolitan Nat. Bank..... 188 1/2 189 1/2 Riggs Nat. Bank..... 150 1/2 151 1/2 Second Nat. Bank..... 150 1/2 151 1/2 Nat. Bank of Wash..... 127 1/2 128 1/2

TRUST COMPANY STOCKS. Amer. Sec. & Trust..... 270 1/2 271 1/2 National Safe & Trust..... 124 1/2 125 1/2 Wash. Loan & Trust..... 220 1/2 221 1/2 Continental Trust..... 114 1/2 115 1/2

SAVINGS BANK STOCKS. Home Savings..... 38 1/2 39 1/2 Bank of Comm. & Sav. 12 1/2 13 1/2 East Wash. Sav. Bank..... 12 1/2 13 1/2

FIRE INSURANCE STOCKS. Corcoran Fire Insurance..... 40 1/2 41 1/2 Firemen's Fire Insurance..... 18 1/2 19 1/2 German-American Fire Ins..... 25 1/2 26 1/2 National Union Fire Ins..... 5 1/2 6 1/2

TITLE INSURANCE STOCKS. Columbia Title Insurance..... 41 1/2 42 1/2 Chapin Sacks..... 15 1/2 16 1/2 D. C. Paper Mfg. Co..... 125 1/2 126 1/2 Graphophone common..... 104 1/2 105 1/2 Graphophone preferred..... 113 1/2 114 1/2 Merch. Trans. Storage..... 190 1/2 191 1/2 Security Storage..... 175 1/2 176 1/2 Washington Market..... 175 1/2 176 1/2

Escapes Jail Again.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 12.—Charles A. Sling, held for authorities of Sing Sing prison, from which he escaped last December when serving a sentence of twenty-one months for robbery, was his way out of the parish prison here.

Watches, Diamonds, Jewelry Etc. Pay 50c a Week

Phone Main 855, and Salesman H. A. SEABRIDGE JEWELRY CO. 802 F St. N. W.

FINANCIAL

Over 32,000 Open Accounts. CAPITAL..... \$1,000,000 EARNED \$1,000,000

It Is Not Your Earnings

—but your SAVINGS that really count in the long run. Deposit regularly a portion of your salary in this strong, old, interest-paying bank and GET AHEAD.

National Savings and Trust Company, Corner 15th and N. Y. Ave. FORTY-NINTH YEAR.

Halt. Phila. Richmond and New York money to loan on local propositions at 5% to 6% Interest. No delay. Minimum \$1,000. W. E. Dentinger & Co., Evans Bldg.

N. L. Carpenter & Co. Main Office, 17 William Street, N. Y. New York Stock Exchange, New York Cotton Exchange, Board of Trade, New Orleans Cotton Exchange, New York Produce Exchange, Liverpool Cotton Association. Private Wire With All Principal Cities. HERBERT H. BROWN, Manager. Woodward Building, 15th and N. Y. Ave.

W. B. Hibbs & Co. Hibbs Building. New York Stock Exchange, New York Cotton Exchange, Board of Trade, Washington Stock Exchange. Members. Local Stocks. Bought and sold on same favorable terms as on offer for trading in New York stocks and bonds.

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